

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,191,950 B1 issued to Cox et al. ("Cox"). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

To start, claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 6 which is neither taught nor suggested by Cox. It is argued that the rejections of claims 6 and 16 as filed are erroneous, and should be withdrawn. These claims include(d) the recitation that the first locking member is implanted in the frame, with its front end projected from the implanted portion toward the internal space. Fig. 9 of the present application shows this configuration, with area 22 being the portion of the locking member that is implanted in the frame 11, and area 24 being the projecting portion.

In contrast, as clearly shown in Fig. 3 of Cox, there is no part of either locking member 10 or 14 that is implanted in a frame. Consequently, there is no portion of either locking member 10 or 14 that projects from an implanted portion. Thus, the rejections of claims 1 and 16 should be withdrawn.

Further, claim 11 is amended to recite a guiding portion of a locking member that extends obliquely into the internal space of the IC card. This is also neither taught nor suggested by Cox. The recited guiding portion is exemplified

by reference numeral 42 in Fig. 4, and reference numeral 52 in Fig. 9 of the present application. In contrast, Cox clearly shows that area 16 in Fig. 3 which in some respects parallels portions 42 and 52 of Figs. 4 and 9 of the present application, does not extend obliquely into the internal space of the IC card. Further, area 16 in Fig. 3 of Cox could not serve a guiding function as it does not promote locking engagement between a first locking member and a second locking member. Therefore, the rejections of claim 11 should be withdrawn.

Finally, the rejections of claims 9 to 10, and 19 to 20 are erroneous. These claims recite that a positioning member is abutted against the inner wall of the frame for positioning the second panel with respect to the frame, and that the positioning member is elastically abutted. This feature is exemplified by reference numeral 50 in Figs 9 to 10C. Cox fails to teach or suggest such an abutment of a positioning member, and the Examiner has not pointed out specific areas of Figs. 2 and 3 of Cox that could possibly read on these limitations.

"A claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)

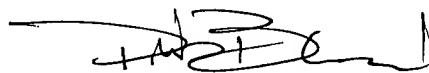
(emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. Several limitations set forth above are neither taught nor suggested by Cox. Thus, the rejections of all of the pending claims should be withdrawn.

Further, the Cox patent does not lend itself to application against the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for the same reasons set forth above. The above differences between Cox and the present application are substantial, and set the present claims apart from the prior art in a nonobvious manner.

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 20 July 2001



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Appendix

Amendments to the Claims

1. (amended) A frame kit for an IC card, comprising:
a frame for defining an internal space of an IC card;
a first panel integrated with the frame and having a first locking member which includes a portion that is implanted and held in the frame, where a front end of the first locking member projects out from the implanted portion toward the internal space from an inner wall of the frame;
and

a second panel having a second locking member which is engageable with the first locking member of the first panel inside the frame.

3. (amended) The frame kit according to claim 1, wherein one of the first locking member and the second locking member has a locking claw, and [the other] another of the first locking member and the second locking member has an engaging hole with which the locking claw is engaged.

11. (amended) An IC card comprising:
a frame for defining an internal space of an IC card;
a first panel integrated with the frame and having a first locking member which projects toward the internal space

from an inner wall of the frame;

a second panel having a second locking member which is engageable with the first locking member of the first panel inside the frame, said second locking member comprising a guiding portion that extends obliquely toward the internal space; and

a circuit board assembly constructed by mounting [the] a connector on the circuit board,

the circuit board assembly being contained between the first panel and the second panel.

13. (amended) The IC card according to claim 11, wherein one of the first locking member and the second locking member has a locking claw, and [the other] another of the first locking member and the second locking member has an engaging hole with which the locking claw is engaged.